General Assembly

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Agenda item 32

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.71 and Add.1)*]

57/295. Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations on 8 September 2000,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with the recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 7 July 2000,[2] are available to all,

Recalling also that the ministerial declaration called for a coherent, system-wide information and communication technologies strategy that would ensure coordination and synergy among programmes and activities of individual organizations of the system and transform it into a knowledge-based system of organizations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 57/238 of 20 December 2002 on the World Summit on the Information Society, in which it encouraged all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, to further their cooperation in and support to the preparatory process of the Summit,

Noting that information and communication technologies for development have been recognized as an important element in the outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Affirms* the need to use information and communication technologies as a strategic tool to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the development programmes and technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system;

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 17.

2. *Emphasizes* the need for coordination and synergy between programmes and activities of the United Nations system and the crucial role that information and communication technologies can play in facilitating such coordination;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to work closely with organizations of the United Nations system and with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to develop a comprehensive information and communication technologies strategy for the United Nations system, taking into account the following elements:

(*a*) Encouraging the system-wide application and use of information and communication technologies to strengthen the United Nations capacity to create, share and disseminate knowledge and to help to make the United Nations more efficient and effective in the delivery of services to Member States;

(*b*) Mainstreaming and integrating information and communication technologies more fully into development and technical cooperation activities of the organizations of the system;

(*c*) Building collaborative networks and communities of practice among organizations of the system;

(*d*) Developing, where appropriate, common platforms for services such as databases, documentation and meetings;

(*e*) Encouraging the use of information and communication technologies to promote the exchange of experiences and to enhance information-sharing among the organizations of the system and between the organizations and Member States;

(*f*) Developing comprehensive system-wide training programmes aimed at building the capacities of the system to take full advantage of information and communication technologies;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Information and communication technologies for development".

79th plenary meeting
20 December 2002